

GiM2019: THE YOUTH MEETING OF THE APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT

"Other dreams that the world does not offer". The 4th Meeting of young people organized by the Apostolic Movement took its cue from the exhortation *Christus vivit* of Pope Francis.

The Holy Father's letter guided the itinerary of preparation of young people for the appointment, marking a lively journey of acceptance and reflection.

On August 3rd, around 500 participants gathered at the visitor centre of the Sila National Park in the province of Catanzaro, warmly welcomed by the Carabinieri of Biodiversity Department. The Commander, colonel Nicola Cucci, has personally greeted the people present, confirming the fruitful commitment of the Corps alongside the institutions that, like the Apostolic Movement itself, deal with the formation of young generations.

The Meeting was opened by a moment of prayer, centred on biblical stories of vocation and on some points taken from the words of Pope Francis to the young. Father Francesco Brancaccio, diocesan assistant, after bringing the greeting of the archbishop H.E. Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone, has opened a track for common reflection, suggesting to young people, and not only to them, how to elevate authentic dreams: not stopping at dreams about the personal life prospects, even if they are good, but dreaming starting from the heart of Christ, to make his dreams

and his projects on each of us their own. Because we often entrust our intentions to God, but we do not think that he is the first to have an eternal dream that he entrusts us, the project of bringing together all the dispersed hearts in the unity of his Son. A dream that the Virgin Mary makes her own and which also constitutes the identity of the Apostolic Movement, called to remind the Gospel.

After prayer, young people and families were divided into four dialogue groups, each moderated by a priest and some lay people. Each group started with different ideas taken from *Christus vivit*, offering many participants the opportunity to make an original and fruitful contribution. Contributions that were collected and witnessed shortly during the afternoon in front of the entire audience. "God never makes the same dreams about everyone - a girl summarized - each of us is unique and unrepeatable, hence the importance of putting all the Lord's dreams into communion, as the Apostolic Movement has always tried to do"

The testimonies of two families, of a priestly vocation and of a group of young people also particularly enriched the day, offering very immediate and practical, and at the same time profound and effective reasons for reflection and encouragement.

The atmosphere of celebration and joy was expressed with particular fraternity in the afternoon time of animation, which involved all the young people and many of their families.

Concluding the event, father Gesualdo de Luca, regional ecclesiastical assistant, recalled that to carry forward the dream entrusted to the Apostolic Movement, Christ Jesus and the Virgin Mary need everyone, priests and laity, families and consecrated persons, young people and adults. In communion, the dream of bringing the Gospel to the world, a dream never to be extinguished, is given substance.



No, I tell you, but division

The division that Christ came to bring to earth is the fruit of a choice. For the transportation of our life into eternity there are two ways: a narrow and constricted one that leads to Paradise and a wide and spacious one that leads to perdition. The division of which Christ the Lord speaks now enters in the game. He comes and makes his offer. Man, if you want to enter eternal life tomorrow, you must walk the path of my Word, you must take my Gospel as a vehicle towards eternity. Since the offer can be accepted, but also rejected, who climbs on the chariot of the Gospel will necessarily be divided by who takes the chariot of the devil. Separation will not only be on earth, but also in eternity. From the reign of Satan, after death, one cannot pass into the kingdom of God, nor can one pass on from the kingdom of God to the kingdom of Satan. The two kingdoms will be separated forever. The just and the damned will never again be able to meet. The abyss is impassable.

This division happens in every place where man lives, in every area where he is present: in society, in the Church, in the family, at work and at leisure, when he is alone or with others. Whoever chose Christ is always obliged to follow Christ. Since we cannot follow Christ and the prince of darkness, good and evil, justice and injustice, the disciple of Jesus will necessarily have to be divided. The Gospel, the Word and the Commandments of the Lord demand it. That of the Christian is not only a choice for the attainment of the greatest true eternal good. If he is faithful to his choice, if he shows the benefits that his choice produces

in the present, many others will be able to follow him and for him many hearts will be able to reach Jesus the Lord. Since the choice is from the will of every single person, even father, mother, brother, sister, friends and companions can choose the wide and spacious way and the division will be inevitable. Division is the fruit, not the end of the choice. The goal is always the conversion of those who have not yet chosen Jesus the Lord. In Christ, through Christ and with Christ, life is offered to the Father, in the Holy Spirit, for the salvation of the many.

A truth that must not be forgotten wants never two paths might be follow. It also wants us to understand that with the body we can also stay in the temple, but if we are not even with the spirit, with the soul, with the will and with thoughts, it is useless. The body is in the temple only in those moments when we carry it in it or into the community where the children of God gather, but the soul, the spirit, the thoughts and the will are not where the body is. They are in the realm of darkness. It is useless to bring the body to the sacred place, if then the spirit, the heart and the soul are in the temple of the devil, at his school. Never might truth and falsehood walk together. God's plan and men's projects will always separate. The unity of the disciples is only in the project of God. One does not split up for personal reasons, but only for an embraced project. Mother of the Redemption, help Jesus' disciples so that they walk together on the path of truth, justice and obedience to the Word that saves and redeems.

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THE YOUNG PROTAGONISTS OF THE CHURCH'S MISSION

*Reflections starting from the fifth chapter
of the Apostolic Exhortation "Christus vivit" of H. H. Francis*

Chapter V of *Christus vivit* opens with the following question: "How is youth lived when we let ourselves be illuminated and transformed by the great proclamation of the Gospel"? (ChV 134). I think that only by answering this question we can understand how today young people can be the protagonists of the Church's mission.

In fact, considering that the mission of the Church consists in announcing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the world (cf. Mk 16:15), only those who have truly "let themselves be illuminated and transformed by the great proclamation of the Gospel" might absolve in a credible manner this task.

The first element to be highlighted is to remind that there is only one Gospel (cf. Gal 1,6-9) every man must convert to. That is, there is no Gospel for young people, a Gospel for adults and a Gospel for the elderly. There is only one Gospel, one faith, one morality, which both the young and the adults and the elders must live: "Seeking the Lord, guarding his Word, trying to respond to it with the personal life and growing in virtues, that is what makes the hearts of the young strong" (ChV 158). This is reason why only by getting converted to the Gospel it is that a young person can be a protagonist of the ecclesial mission.

When we are converted to the Gospel, life changes radically. We no longer think according to the world, we no longer live according to the world and we no longer fight the battles of the world. We think according to the Gospel, we live according to the Gospel and we fight the battles of the Gospel. When we get converted, we approve what Christ approves and disapproves what Christ di-

sapproves. What Christ calls sin is called sin; what Christ calls love is called love. Because, with conversion, He and we become one: one thought, one heart and one will (because His has become ours in all).

After these simple considerations we can answer the question from which we started, namely: "How can we live youth when we let ourselves be illuminated and transformed by the great proclamation of the Gospel"? It is lived according to the Commandments, according to the Sermon on the Mount, according to all the Word of the Lord. And a youth lived in this way is the greatest testimony of faith that can be given; in our days, it is the most sublime way through which young people are called to be the first protagonists of the Church's mission. Because if scandal was given before conversion, after conversion one is an example, being a mirror for others; if before we walked the paths of immorality, after we follow paths of evangelical morality. And this radical change affects profoundly the lives of other young people and of all those persons who know each other. And it is the personal encounter with Jesus, our true Friend and our precious pearl, which transforms life. Pope Francis says: "No matter how much you live and have experiences, you will not reach the peak of youth, you will not know the true fullness of being young, if you do not meet the great Friend every day, if you do not live in friendship with Jesus" (ChV 150). The mission that the Church entrusts to young people who live in friendship with Jesus is to let other young people know the true Friend who changed their lives.

Father Alessandro Severino

**The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE**

**DO YOU THINK THAT I HAVE
COME TO ESTABLISH PEACE ON THE EARTH?
(XX SUNDAY O.T. - Year C)**

THIS MAN OUGHT TO BE PUT TO DEATH (Jer 38.4-6.8-10)

When the Lord called Jeremiah, he also made him a promise: "Don't say, 'I'm young.'" You will go to all those to whom I will send you and will say all that I will command you. Don't be afraid in front of them, because I'm with you to protect you. Therefore, you tighten the garment on your sides, get up and tell them all that I order you; do not be frightened in front of them, otherwise I will be the one to scare you in front of them. And behold, today I make of you like a fortified city, a pillar of iron and a wall of bronze against all the land, against the kings of Judah and its leaders, against its priests and the people of the land. They will make you war, but they won't overcome you, because I am with you to save you». Every day Jeremiah felt the hostility of the children of Jerusalem. Today they want him dead. He is lowered into a cistern full of mud. But the Lord never forgets his Word. He uses a foreigner so that his prophet is rescued.

KEEPING OUR EYES FIXED ON JESUS (Heb 12: 1-4)

Can we live from faith to faith, always adding new strength to complete our journey till our entry into eternal bliss? We can live on one condition: that our gaze never turns away from Jesus Crucified. Whoever looks at Jesus Crucified is filled with an ever new strength, with an ever stronger will, with a heart full of every desire for perseverance. Christ Crucified is for us more than water in a desert oasis. From his pierced heart the water and the blood that will raise us from all tiredness, will strengthen us in every

weakness, will console us in every affliction, will infuse us with every new energy to carry out the mission of our life, will always come out for us. Jesus Crucified will instil in us his own heart and will, he will make us a gift of his obedience and we will also live to make our lives a gift to him for the redemption and salvation of the world.

NO, I TELL YOU, BUT RATHER DIVISION (Lk 12.49-53)

When we choose to follow Christ, we must always walk behind Him. Where does Christ go? Christ came out of God, came from God, from the Father, and always walks towards the Father, obeying his will, listening to his voice and observing his Law. Instead, Satan wants him from his voice and his will. An eternal division is born between Christ Jesus and Satan. The division, the separation and the removal are caused by his obedience to the Father. The disciple of Jesus chose to follow his Master. Satan and the world want him on their side, listening to their voice. The Christian must choose: if he listens to the world he cannot hear Christ Jesus. If he hears Christ Jesus never might he hear the world. The division, the separation and the departure from the thought of Satan and the world are born. Since many men listen to the thought of Satan and walk according to the world, the Christian by choice of obedience divides, separates and moves away from following the thought of the world. The division is the necessary consequence of the choice to follow Christ Jesus and his Word.

*by the theologian,
Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno*